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Message Text

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ORIGIN HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 VO-05 CA-01 INSE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 /070 R

DRAFTED BY HA:SCLOWMAN:CAF
APPROVED BY HA:JLCARLIN
EA/RA - F. BENNETT
EA/TMS:MEASTON
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 006176

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: SINGAPORE TEMPORARY ASYLUM CENTER

REF: HONG KONG 0435

MANILA: FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY DERIAN

1. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT SINGAPORE'S CONCERN, AS RE-
LATED BY UNHCR REP. CARPENTER, THAT IF A CAMP IS ESTABLISHED
COUNTRIES LIKE MALAYSIA WILL CLOSE THEIR DOORS SENDING ALL
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TO SINGAPORE, IS UNFOUNDED. IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS,
ACCEPTANCE OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES BY ALL THE COUNTRIES
IN THE AREA IS DEPENDENT UPON CONTINUED PROGRAMS BY THE
COUNTRIES OF TRADITIONAL IMMIGRATION AT A LEVEL ADEQUATE
TO ABSORB THE FLOW OF BOAT CASES.

2. WITHIN THAT OVERALL LIMITATION, POSITIVE POLICIES BY

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THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION ARE COMPLEMENTARY, ENCOURAGING THE OTHER NATIONS ALSO TO TAKE A MORE FORTHCOMING POSITION, RATHER THAN THE OTHER WAY AROUND. TO DATE, SINGAPORE HAS BEEN THE MOST RESTRICTIVE IN ITS POLICY TOWARDS BOAT CASES. WE BELIEVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TEMPORARY ASYLUM CENTER WILL ENCOURAGE BOTH THAILAND AND MALAYSIA TO CONTINUE TO ACCEPT REFUGEES ON A TEMPORARY BASIS.

3. CERTAINLY THE USG AND, WE ASSUME, THE UNHCR WOULD CONTINUE TO PRESS THE OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE AREA TO MAINTAIN LIBERAL POLICIES TOWARDS THE ACCEPTANCE OF THESE REFUGEES AND WOULD FIND A MORE LIBERAL POLICY ON THE PART OF THE GOS VERY HELPFUL IN MAKING THIS ARGUMENT.

4. DEPARTMENT HAS JUST RECEIVED SINGAPORE 0106 WHICH DESCRIBES PM LEE'S INSISTENCE ON ADVANCE QUOTAS FROM THIRD COUNTRIES TO COVER INDOCHINESE REFUGEES WHO WOULD USE PROPOSED SINGAPORE REFUGEE CENTER. THIS DOES NOT DIFFER APPRECIABLY FROM ORIGINAL GOS POSITION ON INDOCHINESE REFUGEES TAKEN IN 1975. WE NEVERTHELESS INTEND TO USE ASSISTANT SECRETARY DERIAN'S STOP IN SINGAPORE TO TRY TO PERSUADE LEE TO ACCEPT UNHCR GUARANTEE OF BEST EFFORTS. IF LEE DOUBTS UNHCR ABILITY TO RESETTLE REFUGEES THE TRANSIT CENTER COULD INITIALLY BE LIMITED TO A SMALL NUMBER OF REFUGEES. TALKING POINTS FOR USE BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DERIAN WILL FOLLOW SEPTEL.
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5. EMBASSY SINGAPORE PLEASE PASS TO DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OAKLEY. VANCE

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